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Case No. US010232 (7790/28)
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DRAWING AMENDMENTS:

The attached replacement informal drawing sheets 1/5 and 4/5 includes proposed changes to FIGS. 1 and 4, respectively. Specifically, "PRIOR ART" has been added to FIG. 1, and "450" has been labeled for the quantized window of FIG. 4.

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REMARKS/DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Specification. In the Non-Final Office Action, Examiner Garcia-Otero objected to the specification. The Applicant has amended the specification herein to obviate Examiner Garcia-Otero's objections to the specification. No new matter was introduced by the amendment of the specification herein. Withdrawal of the objections to the specification is therefore respectfully requested.

Drawings. In the Non-Final Office Action, Examiner Garcia-Otero objected to the drawings. The attached replacement informal drawing sheets 1/5 and 4/5 include proposed changes to FIGS. 1 and 4, respectively, to obviate Examiner Garcia-Otero's objections to the drawings. The Applicant respectfully asserts that FIGS. 1 and 4 are properly labeled by the drawing amendments herein, and no new matter was introduced into the drawing amendments herein. Examiner Garcia-Otero is therefore respectfully requested to approve the proposed replacement informal drawing sheets 1/5 and 4/5.

Claims. In the Non-Final Office Action, Examiner Garcia-Otero rejected pending claims 1-22 on various grounds. The Applicant responds to each rejection as subsequently recited herein, and respectfully requests reconsideration and further examination of the present application under 37 CFR § 1.112:

- A. Examiner Garcia-Otero rejected claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2 as being indefinite

The Applicant has amended the specification and drawings herein to obviate this indefiniteness rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2 is therefore respectfully requested.

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- B. Examiner Garcia-Otero rejected claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶1 as being inadequately described

The Applicant has amended the specification and drawings herein to obviate this written description rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶1 is therefore respectfully requested.

- C. Examiner Garcia-Otero rejected claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,647,385 to *Abboud* in view of "HDL Chip Design" to *Smith*

The Applicant has thoroughly considered Examiner Garcia-Otero's remarks concerning the patentability of claims 1-22 over *Abboud* in view of *Smith*. The Applicant has also thoroughly read *Abboud* and *Smith*. To warrant this 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 1-22, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. See, MPEP §2143. The Applicant respectfully traverses this §103(a) rejection of claims 1-22, because *Abboud* teaches away from the combination of *Abboud* and *Smith* as asserted by Examiner Garcia-Otero.

Specifically, as illustrated in FIG. 5, *Abboud* teaches an apodization circuit 60 that includes delay circuits 102-103, counter 104, multipliers 106, 108, 110, look-up table 112, divider 114 and memory 116. The circuit 60 receives the aperture size in transducer element units, a number identifying the transducer element channel to be processed, the focused data for such channel and a channel equalization factor. See, *Abboud* at column 6, lines 11-19. *Abboud* clearly teaches away from replacing the multipliers in view of the fact that circuit 60 is configurable to a significant extent.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-22 under §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Abboud* in view of *Smith* is therefore respectfully requested.

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SUMMARY

Examiner Garcia-Otero's rejections of pending claims 1-22 have been obviated herein by amendment herein of the specification and the remarks herein supporting an allowance of claims 1-22 over the art of record. The Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-22 as listed herein fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103 and 112. In view of the foregoing, favorable consideration and early passage to issue of the present application is respectfully requested. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, Examiner Garcia-Otero is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

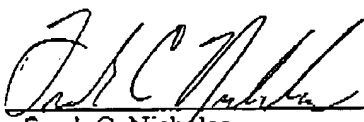
Dated: **March 22, 2005**

Respectfully submitted,
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